

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2584

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MOPS, SF, WA,
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: GOB OFFICIALS ON VIOLENCE IN NAMIBIA AND SOVIET
POSITION ON UNTAG FINANCING

REF: A) STATE 192354 B) PRETORIA 4715

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 15, PRESI-
DENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR LEGWAILA AND EXTAFF DEPUTY SECRE-
TARY MOGAMI EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RAISING LEVEL OF VIOLENCE
IN NAMIBIA. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS OF BORDER VIOLATIONS
AND CLASHES BETWEEN SADF TROOPS AND SWAPO GUERRILLAS (REF
B), LEGWAILA EXPRESSED FEARS THAT INCREASING VIOLENCE IN
NAMIBIA COULD ULTIMATELY THREATEN SETTLEMENT. LEGWAILA
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BLAMED SWAPO FOR ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE AND SAID THAT "AS
MUCH AS WE HATE SOUTH AFRICA" IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
CONDEMN SAG FOR NEW STRIKE AT SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA.
ACCORDING THE LEGWAILA, ALL SIDES SHOULD CEASE FIRE
AND GIVE SETTLEMENT A CHANCE TO WORK. NOTING THAT
UNSR AHTISAARI IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT NORTHERN NAMIBIA
AUGUST 15, LEGWAILA SAID HE HOPED AHTISAARI WOULD THEN

"PACK HIS BAGS AND GET BACK TO NEW YORK" SO THAT ARRIVAL OF UN MILITARY PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA COULD BE EXPEDITED.

2. DURING MEETING WITH EMBOFF ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, MOGAMI APPEARED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA. CONCERNING REPORTS OF GROWING VIOLENCE IN TERRITORY, MOGAMI SAID THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT GUERRILLAS WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YEARS TO IMMEDIATELY AND COMPLETELY ACCEPT CEASE FIRE. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WOULD PROVOKE NEW SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA WHICH COULD CAUSE SETTLEMENT TO COLLAPSE.

3. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET POSITION ON UNTAG FINANCING, MOGAMI SPECULATED THAT APPROACHES BY FRONTLINE STATES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MIGHT CAUSE SOVIETS TO RECONSIDER THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNTAG FINANCING. HE SUGGESTED THAT ANGOLA MIGHT BE THE FL STATE BEST ABLE TO APPROACH SOVIETS, ALTHOUGH ANGOLANS MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO DO SO. MOGAMI DID NOT SUGGEST THAT BOTSWANA WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROACH SOVIETS ON UNTAG FINANCING.

4. COMMENT: EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY LEGWAILA AND MOGAMI INDICATE THAT GOB IS VERY WORRIED OVER RISING CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA. WE BELIEVE GOB IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SUCCESS OF NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT PLAN BOTH AS THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN TERRITORY ITSELF AND AS INCENTIVE FOR SETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN RHODESIA. GOB WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COUNSEL BOTH SWAPO AND SAG TO CEASE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND GIVE SETTLEMENT A CHANCE TO WORK, BUT BOTSWANA'S INFLUENCE WITH BOTH NAMIBIAN ANTAGONISTS IS VERY LIMITED. WE CAN, HOWEVER, COUNT ON GOB SUPPORT FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH AHTISAARI WILL MAKE TO UNSC.

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